**ALA Midwinter Meeting 2006**
**ALCTS Technical Services Directors of Large Research Libraries**
**Report of Recent Activities at the National Agricultural Library**

AGRICOLA Index

After an internal review of the AGRICOLA Index last spring, NAL determined that the Index no longer was either comprehensive or timely. As a result, NAL has initiated a process of re-scoping the Index with a goal to produce a product that has a unique niche, is financially sustainable, and supports the future operations of the Library. A key role of the revised AGRICOLA Index will be to serve as the search and access point to a Digital Archive of Agricultural Publications. The final mix of articles in the Index is still to be determined, however, the focus will be on works published by USDA, authored by USDA scientists, sponsored by USDA, or created by AgNIC partner institutions. Indexing will also continue for titles that are now unique to the Index and a basic core of agricultural titles. NAL is actively soliciting comments from AGRICOLA users. Comments can be e-mailed to future@nal.usda.gov.

Integrated Systems

NAL's staff has completed beta testing of an internally developed *Boolean Cube* application for use with Voyager systems. It is a web-based advance searching module that enables user to easily construct complex Boolean searches to query Voyager databases such as NAL's AGRICOLA. NAL's Boolean Cube has been implemented as the primary advance search option in the Voyager catalog. It has also been used to create persistent canned subject searches of both our catalog and the AGRICOLA Index. (http://www.nal.usda.gov/catalog/quickfind.shtml)  The application will soon be available for download to be modified and used by other Voyager Libraries.

Cataloging

Initial discussions have been completed on NAL's participation in a cooperative cataloging project with the Cataloging in Publication division of the Library of Congress. NAL will catalog electronically submitted manuscripts in the area of agriculture as part of the CIP program.   NAL staff is excited about the prospect of bringing agricultural expertise to and meeting the time commitments of this project.

NAL Web Redesign

As part of a USDA mandated effort, NAL has redesigned and updated our core web presence (www.nal.usda.gov).  This major redesign involved implementation of a consistent web design template and migration procedure.  To effect this change, NAL has had to review over 40,000 web pages and determine what to reformat, implement, archive, or discard.

Electronic Repositories

A pilot electronic repository for USDA authored research publications has been implemented using the ZYLAB application and the AGRICOLA index.  This project involves two research units within USDA and will identify resolve policy and workflow issues to be resolved. Concurrently, we are working on the technical and business plan for a larger Digital Repository of Agricultural Publications (DRAP). The study is scheduled to be completed in March 2006. NAL's goal is to begin capturing all of the 7,000+ peer reviewed articles authored by USDA/Agricultural Research Service scientists and store them in the DRAP.  Search and access to the repository will be through the AGRICOLA Index.

Budget

Congress enacted the FY2006 USDA budget in November 2005 and it contained a modest $180,000 increase over the fiscal 2005 appropriation. Subsequently a 1% across-the board rescission was enacted in late December 2005 which effectively erased the increase.  In addition, an internal 1% levy was assessed across the Agricultural Research Service to fund post Katrina expenses addressing damages to the Southern Regional Research Center in New Orleans.

Personnel

Caroline Early resigned her position as Head of the Acquisitions & Serials Branch in October 2005 to accept a position with the Securities and Exchange Commission.